



8th Year

July 30, 1979

Number 31

# Illinois Gets Tough

Motorists in Illinois will have to pay more attention to their speed as the state resorts to "unconventional methods" to nab speeders. The state highway police are sending out plainclothes police in highway road-mowers, dump trucks and unmarked cars to spy on the motorist.

They radio information about speeders to a uniformed trooper in a marked car who then stops the motorist and gives him a ticket.

The State Department of Law Enforcement says it is going to "pull out all the stops" in an effort to crack down on motorists who exceed the 55 m.p.h. speed limit. "The bottom line for all drivers, professional and private, is facing the possibility that any vehicle they see moving or stopped along the highway could be occupied by a trooper with radar," says Dan K. Webb, state law enforcement officer.

Gov. James R. Thompson said the use of "covert enforcement" and "unconventional methods" to catch speeders is fine with him.

"If that's what it takes in Illinois to get the speed down, that's what we'll do," the governor said.

Thompson said that drivers using citizens' band radios and radar detectors have hampered police efforts to nab speeders. When drivers with their CB radios spot a marked police car they tend to radio ahead and tell others to reduce their speed he said.

Webb also said there has been a growing number of public complaints about buses and trucks that fail to comply with the 55 m.p.h. speed limit. He said that motorists see no reason to comply with the speed limit if it is ignored by bus and truck drivers.

(Continued on Page 17)

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## UNDER THE BIG TOP

by JAN JOYNER

Circus Vargas just completed an intensive 2 week mid-season sprucing up. Everything was repaired, repainted and washed. Much new wardrobe was added to spec along with the addition of all the horses. New track lights were added along with artifacts in the marquee. Revolving mirrored balls were put in the dog act. All the front door people and ushers now wear tuxedos. In appreciation of everyone's efforts Mr. Vargas gave the entire personnel a whopping big steak barbeque with all the trimmings. Disco dancing topped off the evening.

The 1979 edition of the Circus of Kids was delightfully presented by the children of Circus Vargas' employees on July 4th.

The program began with the Tangerine Tumbling Troupe with Alice Lantony, April, Renee Williams, Esmeralda Padilla, Lonna Paska, Tammy and Christopher Coggins, Tracy McCullough, Tony Morales and Tony Silvas.

Miss Ya Ya Lantony followed on the single trapeze featuring heel and toe hangs. Miss Brenda Morales and her Samoyeds were next, followed by clowns Tracy and Timmy McCullough, Esmeralda Padilla and Christopher Coggins. The Great Million Dollar Carlos Twins with April and Lonna Paska closed the first half.

After a short intermission the second half opened with the clowns doing a take-off on Superman with Christopher Coggins as Superman and featuring 2½ year old Julio Rodriguez as the top crook. This act literally broke up the audience.

Los Gauchos; Brenda Morales, Renee Williams and Tammy Coggins did a very impressive bola act and received a standing ovation. Hedy and her trained

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## PEOPLE

DARRELL MEDLEY, veteran performer of the Redlands, Calif., YMCA's Great All-American Youth Circus, is now head trainer of the Circus City Festival in Peru, Ind. Darrell is married to former Peru circus performer, KATHI HOOVER, daughter of JIM HOOVER who has served as board member, performer, trainer and equipment constructor for the show.

DON and MADELLYNE McLENNAN and TINA RISDON have replaced the Herriotts on Circus Vargas. They are working 3 rings of liberty horses, with all three featuring a watzling and hind-leg walk finale. A new horse, recently purchased by Mr. Vargas, is ridden by Tina Risdon, who along with the Mc Lennan's present a disco dressage number.

gorilla with Hedy, Alice Lantony and Darlene Williams as the gorilla followed. Clowns doing the levitation with Tracy and Timmy McCullough, Esmeralda Padilla, Christopher Coggins and Julio still as the top crook.

Renee Williams displayed her apt horsemanship in presenting her appaloosa Yankee. The Tony Bros., with Tony Silvas and Tony Morales on the low wire featuring Tony Silvas jump over Tony Morales back closed the show.

Ringmaster Kevin Biggerstaff handled the show with seasoned aplomb. Music director Freddie Silva and general manager Tish Russo kept the show moving at a professional tempo. Circus Vargas prop and spot light men contributed their efforts and time.

The show proved that we do have young talent practicing and waiting their turns as center ring performers.

A July 4th barbeque followed.

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THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 — Phone: (415) 525-3332

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# Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus  
July 30-Aug 1 Frederick, Md  
Aug. 2-5 Johnstown, Pa.

Big John Strong's Circus  
July 30 Russell, Kans.  
31 Colby  
Aug. 1-2 Colo Sprgs, Colo.  
3-4 Denver  
5 Rawlins, Wyo.

Carson & Barnes Circus  
July 30 Watonna, Minn.  
31 Sparta, Wisc.  
Aug. 1 Black River Falls  
2 Millsville  
3 Ladysmith  
4 Menomonee  
5 New Richmond

Circus Vargas  
July 31-Aug 2 Union Gap,  
Wash.  
Aug. 3-6 Kennewick

Tommy Hanneford Circus  
to Sep. 12 Middletown, Ohio

Happytime Circus  
Aug. 1-5 Napa, Calif.

Hoxie Bros. Circus  
July 30 Ogdensburg, NY  
31 Fulton,  
Aug. 1 Auburn  
2 Syracuse  
3 Olean  
4-5 Erie, Pa.

Lani's Mini Circus  
Aug. 1-5 Antioch, Calif.

Make-A-Circus  
July 31 San Fran., Calif.  
Aug. 3 Watsonville

Monte Carlo Circus  
to Sep 3 Haines City, Fla

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
July 31-Aug. 5 San Antonio  
Texas

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Aug. 2-13 Anaheim, Calif.

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Royal Danish Circus  
Aug. 5-11 Jackson, Mich.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus  
July 31-Aug 2 Maplewood,  
Minn

---- MAGIC ----

Blackstone the Magician  
July 30-Aug 5 Portland, Ore

Jose de la Torre - Magician  
Aug 2-4 Lexington, Ky

Tom Ogden - Magician  
July 30 Potter Place, NH  
31 Oakland, Me.  
Aug. 1 Concord, NH  
2 Canaan  
3 Freedom, Me.  
4 Nassau, NY  
5 W. Wareham, Mass

Bob Reams - Magician  
July 31-Aug. 4 Warren Mich.

SEAM Convention - Magic  
Aug. 2-4 Lexington, Ky.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Bugs Bunny Follies  
Aug 4-8 Henrietta, NY

Burger's Animal Revue  
to Sep 9 Grand Island, NY

CHS Convention  
Aug. 2-4 Bloomington, Ill.

CMB Meet  
Aug. 3-5 Anaheim, Calif.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
Aug. 3-12 Davenport, Iowa

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
Aug 3-12 Springfield, Mo.

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Cold Nose Five - Dog Act  
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James H. Drew Exposition  
Jul 30-Aug 4 Valparaiso, Ind

Foley & Burk Shows  
to Aug 4 San Mateo, Calif.

Hal Haviland - Dogs and Pony  
to Oct. 8 Lincoln, NH

Hawthorn Circus Animals  
to Sep. 9 Niagara Falls, Ont.

More Show Dates  
on Page 19



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Dallas 11/26 - 11/30

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## REPORT

### BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS

... by Don Sandman

The Big John Strong Circus returned to Southwest Ohio, for six days, with a two day stand at Milford, June 10-11, playing at the Milford Shopping Center.

The show set up on the parking lot, which was slick and slopping. As a result the ponies and horses were unable to get secure footing and so did not work. Otherwise the show was as reviewed last month at Marysville, Ohio, with the exception that John's daughter Nicole has joined the show working web and dressage. Also John McGuire has left the clown department.

Members of the John Robinson/Loyal Repensky Tent CFA, attended as a group, with about 30 fans. After

the performance a catered buffet was prepared for fans and circus personnel. John's wife, Gudrun, has joined the show and was introduced to all the fans.

A little excitement was created in Milford when one of the Brahmas decided to tour the city after breaking away from its line. The animal galloped off down the street with Fess Reynolds, riding Frosty, in hot pursuit. Many drivers no doubt had trouble trying to convince their families that they had seen two Brahmas running down the street, one ridden by a man.

From Milford the show moved to Harrison where the evening show was presented in a rainstorm that started a half hour before show time. But the people came out anyway and were sitting five and six deep on the show ground. The date was sponsored by

the United Youth Methodist Fellowship and it was a thrill to see so many people out despite the rain.

Those of us who look forward to the coming of John's Circus each year were sorry to hear that this will be his last year with a tented show. Ill health has forced John to sell the circus, but he plans to continue to promote and operate indoor shows. We will, of course, miss the tented circus.

Sylvester Braun, rope and whip artist, was taken to the hospital for an emergency operation and is at the John Graves Memorial Hospital at Georgetown, Ky.

Grace Sandman had pies and coffee or lemonade for the crew when they were setting up the show at Harrison.

(Continued on Page 17)

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**SAWDUST TRAIL**

by M. L. DUPONT

There has been very little news reporting on the effect of the gas problems and the tent shows. We have received some info about individual acts having problems with gas and nails on the highways, but no word about how the large shows have been effected. It sure bothered this writer's summer tour, but we've noticed a let up in Northern Louisiana. In this land of plenty it makes us wonder "who dropped the ball".

A recent brochure received from George Hubler International Circus includes several news items from different publications, proclaiming the merits of the circus. One of them is an excerpt from Circus Report that appeared several issues back.

Bad weather continues to follow Carson & Barnes. On leaving Nebraska and entering Iowa they were followed by tornados. No word has been received as to whether they were caught in any of the storms although word was received here that some shows suffered a blowdown in the storms of the mid-west.

My thanks to Majorie and David Hackett, of Florida, who kindly sent me Bobby Kaye's address after reading about him in my column. The Hacketts were members of the original Nelson Family (risley act). Formerly from Minnesota they now make their home in Florida. It's nice to know that the column is ready by so many nice and considerate people.

The sudden decision by RBBB to pull the Monte

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Carlo Circus off the road leaves some questions. If the unit was doing as well as had been expected it is safe to assume the show would still be touring. This unit differs from the other two units in that the Ringling name isn't used. When you have a winning and drawing title one should use it. Reports state the show will resume its tour in September.

I was sorry to read of the unfortunate death of Morgan Berry. I had heard the news a few days before reading about it in CR, but couldn't confirm it. Guess we can expect more "flak" from the folks who know nothing about elephants.

It's good to learn that Reggie Armor is at least back on his feet in the circus industry. Though not flying as in the past it is good to know he is up and around once more. I worked several dates with Reggie here in Monroe (La) and was acquainted with his son.

Routes for most shows on the road are hard to get. It was noted that even Charlie Campbell, who has a real knack for getting routes for "Today Is Circus Day, In . . . ?" isn't having an easy time getting show routes either. His last two issues could have used some more routes. I want to thank Hans Ruwll for keeping me posted on the Beatty-Cole route and Ringling's front office for sending their route to me regularly. It's a shame that more shows can't see their way clear to send out the route.

How many fans noted the AP article on July 6th about the nation's worst circus fire? That fire was 35 years ago and was covered by AP reporter Louis G. Black, now retired. It was a day that Hartford will long remember and was called "the day that the clowns cried." One of the mysteries that still remains is the identity of the little girl who was never claimed.

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**ROLAND BROUILLARD** visited the Beatty-Cole Circus at Warwick, R. I., on June 15th and reports the show was doing good business in his area.

**TITO GAONAS** triple somersault with a full twist to the net begins the greatest dismount trick on the flying trapeze in circus history. On the rebound he does a double somersault and a half twist and lands seated on the catch bar. Occasionally, he soars over the bar and stops himself short with an ankle-drop catch.

**PHIL SADLER** has joined Clown Alley with the big Beatty-Cole Circus. He will finish the season on that show as "Dusty the Clown".

**PRINCE PAUL**, veteran Ringling clown, is back with

the Blue Unit after winning a bout at the hospital. He now has a Pacemaker implant and says his ticker is ticking along just as well as ever.

**GINO FARFAN** (15 yrs. old on RBBB Red Unit) and **JULIO FARIAS** (15 yrs. old on RBBB Blue Unit) do quadruple somersaults to the net on dismount at the conclusion of the flying acts this year.

**MANUEL MENDEZ**, manager of the Bugs Bunny stage shows, flew from Scotland to Texas this month to visit his fiancée on the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit. He and **CHELA GAONA** plan to be married in Venice (Fla) on Nov. 24th after the circus closes.

**RUSS MANNING**, artist who drew the Tarzan Sunday cartoon strip which starred the Gaona Family, reports the original drawings belong to the Edgar Rice Burroughs Co. Collectors have offered as much as \$5000 each for the strips.

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## The Circus

The program presented by the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Lakeside, Ohio, on July 14th, featured:

The Dick Pratt Trio, musicians; Nancy Kelly, announcer; Arwood's Dogs; Emmett and What More?; Hunnie Johnson's whips; Miss Tapa and Miss Tavana, web; The Kellys, rola bola; Emmett, standing on hands; Johnson's Bears; Intermission; Miss Harmony, iron jaw; Emmett and magic; Jim and Janine, magic; Emmett and rope; Carmen del Molino, tightwire; Elkin Sisters, acro/dogs; Emmett and the hankie, then a thanks to the band; Peter Luvas and the elephant Baby Kenya; Emmett and Nancy in Goodbye.

Props were handled by Ruth McGuire and Darell Valentine, North American Van Line truck driver from Richmond, Calif.

Acts set for the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus which will appear at the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville, Aug.

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Music will be provided by a ten piece band under the direction of Virginia Lee Fenton. Nancy Kelly will be the ringmaster/announcer and props will be handled by Ruth McGuire and Bob Bell.



## By Crane



REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.  
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# PEOPLE

**ETHEL LUCKEY**, calliope player at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisc., is celebrating her 20th year at the Museum.

**WHIZZER** the Clown (Don Bridwell) will take his comedy magic show to the Bratwurst Festival at Bucyrus, Ohio, on Aug. 18th. During his day away from the Ohio State Fair Circus he will be replaced by **DAVE DISTELHORST** (Scratchy the clown).

**MILONGA CLINE**, who is spending her vacation in Baraboo, Wisc., writes that **BOBBY GIBBS** and "Shorty" **SHARP** recently stopped by for a visit.

**THE VARGAS'** magic act and **ORESTO**, juggler, have moved from Circus Circus in Las Vegas to Circus Circus in Reno.

# Flash!

**JULIO FARIAS**, 10 year old flyer with the Ringling-Barnum Circus Blue Unit received only bruises in a mishap during a performance at New Orleans. The incident occurred when Julio missed the triple, fell into the net and bounced out onto the floor of the Superdome. He was hospitalized for observation and then released.

- + -

One of the riders in an act on the Ringling-Barnum Circus Blue Unit, appearing at New Orleans, was knocked out for a brief period of time when he took a spill from his mount.

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## HOTLINE

**BRUCE ANDERSON**, sway pole performer, was injured early this month while setting up a short part of his equipment for a practice session. A cable came loose and he fell 20 feet to a sidewalk.

Bruce was hospitalized at the VA Hospital in Wadsworth, Calif., where officials said he suffered a broken back, two broken legs and a broken ankle.

**PETE CIMINI**, an animal handler with the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit was hospitalized for a week at Phoenix, Ariz., after receiving a leg cut when he was kicked by a camel. The injury turned into blood poisoning.

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## PEOPLE

**TIM COONEY** is working with the TV show "A Children's Dream" in which his elephants appear. He recently visited the Nugget in Sparks, Nevada.

**ROD MacKENZIE's** "Buffalo Breath Gap Circus" has moved to new facilities at: 1450 North Orleans St., Chicago, Ill. 60610.

**GAYLORD MAYNARD's** comedy routine is featured with the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show.

**DWIGHT MOORE's** wife is recovering at home in Modesto, Calif., after having undergone coronary bypass surgery in June.

## Important Note!

Although they haven't been touring with circuses here of late the Russ Saunders teeterboard act keeps busy playing TV and other special engagements.

They are deeply involved in the promotion of Sports Acrobatics in this country and Paula Dell is vice president of the organization.

The Federation held its 4th Annual National Championships at Santa Monica, Calif., on June 22-23 and some 150 people took part in the events.

The organization needs teachers who know hand balancing, adagio, pyramids and tumbling. People having knowledge of and a background in these fields could find the work is fun and interesting as they help various young people. Those interested should contact: U. S. Sports Acrobatics Federation, P. O. Box 7, Santa Monica, Calif. 90406 for information.

## NOTICE

**BILLY'S BARTON** weekly column will be delayed for a brief period of time while he finishes work on his upcoming book "Past Murder Imperfect". The weekly column will be resumed as soon as the book is handed over to the publishers.

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— OCTOBER —

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CLARK McDERMOTT had his Cold Nose Five Dog Act with Circus Genoa for several dates, then worked the Bozo TV Show in Chicago.

AL DAWLEY was ringmaster for the St. Louis Shrine Circus, and BOOM BOOM BROWNING was the musical director. Al also worked the July 23-29 date for M & M Circus at Wyandotte, Mich.

THE GUERREROS, high wire act, have joined Circus Vargas, replacing the ALBULET BROS. who were injured several weeks ago.

BONNIE MOORE and THOMAS BRACKNEY will be married at Modesto, Calif., on Aug. 10th. Bonnie is the daughter of dog trainer DWIGHT MOORE and is a skater, while Tom is a comedian with the Holiday On Ice Show in Europe. Both tour with that show.

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MARTHA SMITH recently visited the Wisc. Dells and Circus World Museum and reports there are three "Red Wagon" circus type restaurants in the area.

DOC BOYLE, who has been with the Circus World Museum since 1970 has retired. He served as special activities director and was head of Circus World Inc.

THE VOLARE'S, new flying act, is managed by BILLY WOODS, of the Flying Del-Steeles. CATHY FLETCHER who is working with the act achieved her first successful triple on July 10th, caught by Billy Woods.

**BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS (Continued)**

The crew offered to turn the side show tent into a cookhouse if she would join out.

John reported that the circus has been doing very well playing dates set by Red Johnson, and this writer can certainly attest to that. Red was pictured with a group of the show's sponsors in the Harrison Record.

At Xenia, where the show was hit by a storm, the local paper carried photos of the tent billowing up and patrons running for their cars. This city was almost destroyed by a wind storm about two years ago and so it is only natural that citizens here would be concerned about any type of bad weather.

The storm struck during the matinee and only one woman was slightly injured. The night show was packed.

-----

The Ohio State Top, Sells Bros. Top CFA, will have its convention at Americana Amusement Park with the Tommy Hanneford Circus on Aug. 18th. Then the members of the John Robinson/Loyal Repensky Tent CFA have tentatively planned to have a cook-out with the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus when the show plays at the Florence Mall in late August.

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**MAGIC**

DICKY DEAN and MARG are touring with their magic show in Eastern Canada this summer.

HOLVECK & Co., magic illusion show, and its activities were reported on in the recent issue of Tops magazine.

THE SHIMADAS received a great deal of publicity in Honolulu where they appeared with the "Oriental Fantasy" show.

PETER SAMELSON, of New York City, recently completed an 87 day world cruise aboard the passenger liner "Rotterdam." While in the Orient he performed in Canton, China.

BOB KRAMER and JUDY were recently on a date in Atlanta, Ga., where they featured their buzz saw illusion.

**PEOPLE**

JOHNNY HERRIOTT was the MC for the Showfolks of Sarasota annual 4th of July party and picnic.

CLAYTON WOODS visited Magic Time USA recently and took a series of photos for the show's new publicity material.

**ILLINOIS GETS TOUGH (Continued)**

One highway official said that other states have been using unmarked cars in their efforts to reduce speed on the highways. "This is just a new wrinkle on what they've been doing," he said.

A spokesman for the State Department of Transportation said that last year Illinois ranked 12th in the nation in compliance with the 55 m.p.h. speed limit.

**ATTENTION BRITISH READERS**

Wanted: A copy of the article on the Soviet Circus by Jim Brent that appeared in a publication titled "World's Fair" (Oldham) dated Aug. 6, 1960.

Information leading to the whereabouts of this magazine article will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact:

DAVID HAMMARSTROM

1525 Jackson St., No. 310 Oakland, Cal. 94612

**WANTED**

6 x 12 Trampoline - 6 m.m. webbing bed

Phone: 513 - 539 - 9537 No Collects

Or Write: Manager

**ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS**

2621 Mall Drive Sarasota, Fla. 33581

**Down Slightly**

Attendance at the Alameda County Fair at Pleasanton Calif (June 24-July 8) dropped about 8 % as compared to last year, officials report.

A total of 369,593 paid admissions were recorded. The decline was attributed to unusually cool weather, the gas shortage and an increase of 50c in the admission prices.

**REPORT**

CFA NOTES . . . . by Bob McCall

Members of the Roland C. Butler Tent, No. 102, CFA were busy during the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit's visit in Phoenix. Many tent members were on hand when the train arrived, to greet their friends. CFA'r Dr. Boyden Crouch drove his fire engine with air calliope to lead the animals from the train to the building. CFA Western Vice President Fred Reed accompanied Dr. Crouch on the fire truck.

Forty members and guests attended the show in a group and then attended a special party afterwards. Special guests were clown Peggy Williams and Charlie and Kitty Smith, he is the show's trainmaster.

Many of the tent members were on hand at the runs as Smith loaded the train following the final show.

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**F-80 Trailer Mounted Hydraulic Ride** - Like New

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**ACTS WANTED**

Aug. 3 - 4 - 5 - 7 - 9 - 11 - 16 - 18 - 20 - 22 - 24

Sept. 22 - 24 - 26 - 29

Oct. 1 - 3

**COL. BILL'S MAGIC CIRCUS**

3925 Mackinaw St. Saginaw, Mich. 48602

- Send Photo, Describe, Lowest Price -

**ACTS**

The following program was presented by the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus on July 4th at the State Coliseum in Montgomery, Ala. The date was sponsored by radio station WHHY.

Overture by a five piece band, directed by Leigh Ketchum with vocalist Bonnie Earl; Raphals poodles; the Terrys, unicycles; Randy and Sylvia, perch pole; Popcorn and Etc., clowns; Rucker's uncaged leopard; Bonnie & Clyde, musical comedy; Clowns; the Vasquez Chimps; Terry O'Brien, slack wire; Billy Earl and Henrietta, vent, and the Castro Bros., high wire.

The show was managed and announced by Hines Rucker as Emmett and Nancy Kelly were playing a west coast fair date that same day. The show's guest star was Marie Osmond who held an autograph party after the show, along with the Osmond Bros.

**AVAILABLE****FOR SUMMER AND FALL DATES****THE WAINWRIGHTS** - 3 people trampoline**THE SHANES** - Disco/Acrobatcs**CAROL (The Satin Doll)** - Single Trapeze

Just returned from Harlem Globetrotters European Tour, thinking our summer was set; alas, slack, etc.

Contact: **WAYNE WRIGHT**  
R. R. 2 - Terrace Lawn  
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# Show Dates

Kaye Hollywood Elephants  
 to Sep. 3 Variety Attractions

Lipko's Comedy Chimps  
 to Sep 3 Sandusky, Ohio

Los Latinos - Wire Act  
 Jul 30-Aug 12 Pittsburgh, Pa

Mighty Thomas Shows  
 Jul 30-Aug 4 Lethbridge, Alta

Nat'l Unicycle Meet  
 Aug 3-5 Findlay, Ohio

The Star Dusters - High Act  
 to Aug. 5 Montreal, Quebec

The Sikorskys - Jugglers  
 Aug 4 Gaithersburg, Md.

Sloan's Black & White Minstrels  
 to Sep 3 San Francisco, Cal.

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit  
 Aug 1-5 Green Lake, Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit  
 Aug 2-5 Cedarburg, Wisc.

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Contact: **JOHN JORDAN**  
 813 - 355 - 8241

## CIRCUS

Joining the circus is just a dream for most youngsters. However, this summer children in the San Francisco (Calif.) area not only have a chance to join a circus, but they can also learn what it takes to start one of their own.

Make-A-Circus is an energetic group that performs in local parks, presenting juggling and acrobatic feats, as well as clown stunts. The performers teach youngsters the tricks of the trade. It's all free, sponsored by city, state and private funding.

The circus starts with a parade around the park, led by the ringmaster who calls neighbors and children to come and join in. All circle back to a colorful arena for an hour's show by the 30-member group.

After the program the youngsters can learn to juggle, act like a lion or performing elephant, or do tumbling routines. Surrounding the arena are side shows, games and booths where children can learn face painting.

### Panoramic of Buffoonery

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